

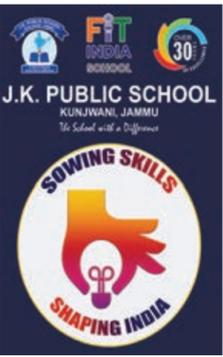
# STATE TIMES

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**05 Amar Mahal to host 4th edition of Tawi Festival from March 13**

**10 JKPS Panjtirthi student wins gold at Jammu Division Karate-Do Championship**

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## Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Rajouri, terrorist killed

### Search ops launched after suspected Pak drone activity in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Army troops foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Tuesday, killing one terrorist during an encounter, officials said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, security forces detected the movement of two terrorists in the general area of Jhangar in Nowshera sector along the LoC at around 3 pm, the White Knight Corps said on X.

Alert troops responded with swift and calibrated action and engaged the infiltrators, successfully foiling the infiltration attempt, it said.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, one Pakistan-sponsored terrorist was eliminated, effectively preventing any breach of the LoC, it added.

A search operation has been launched to trace the second terrorist, who is believed to be hiding in the area.

Security forces have strengthened their operational posture and heightened surveillance across the sector, with integrated ground and aerial monitoring to ensure complete domination of the area, it said.

Meanwhile, security forces launched a search operation after suspected



Pakistani drone activity was reported along the International Border in Samba district, officials said.

The movement of a suspected enemy drone was detected over the general area of Daboh late Monday night, prompting security forces to initiate countermeasures, including the deployment of more forces and a thorough search of the area to ensure that no weapons or narcotics were airdropped, they said.

The officials added that a joint search operation by the Army, police and Border Security Force (BSF) is underway in the area where reports of drone sightings were received.

Police and BSF also launched a search operation in Bhai Nallah, Lala Chaack and Malani in the Rajpura area of the district, following information about suspicious movement in the early hours of the day, the officials said.

## Six IFS among 10 officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday transferred six IFS among 10 officers in Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment.

According to the order issued by Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Chaturbhuj Behara, IFS (AGMUT 1996), Director, J&K Forest Research Institute, shall hold the additional charge of the post of PCCF (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K; Dr V S Senthil Kumar, IFS (AGMUT 2005),

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## Three JSD workers dismissed for anti-national activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has dismissed three workers of the Jal Shakti department over their alleged involvement in "anti-national and subversive activities", officials said on Tuesday.

Among the three workers, two hailed from Kishtwar district in Jammu, while one belonged to south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

They were identified as Liyaqat Ali Bhagwan, a resident of Bhagwan Mohalla Huller in Kishtwar; Kousar

Hussain Bhagwan, son of Mohammad Akbar Bhagwan and a resident of Hunjala in Kishtwar; and Showkat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Iqbal Mohalla Bijbehara in Anantnag.

According to the dismissal order issued by Shaleen Kabra, the Financial Commissioner of Jal Shakti Department, Liyaqat was working as a need-based casual labourer and was posted at Berwar in Kishtwar.

Kousar Hussain was also a need-based casual labourer

posted at Huller under PHE Sub-Division in Kishtwar, while Showkat was a daily-rated wager in Bijbehara, the order said.

According to the order, an FIR (No 230/2019) was registered against Liyaqat and Kousar Hussain under Sections 13, 18, 19, 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), pertaining to allegations of involvement in terrorist acts, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts, harbouring terrorists, and membership

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## HC of J&K, Ladakh felicitates Ranji Trophy team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday felicitated the Jammu & Kashmir Ranji Trophy team for historic achievement of winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title in the 2025-26 season, marking a landmark moment in the sporting history of the Union Territory.

The felicitation ceremony was held in presence of Chief Justice Arun Palli along with Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal,



Chief Justice Arun Palli and other Judges felicitating J&K Ranji team at High Court Complex, Jammu on Tuesday.

Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar besides Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The ceremony was also attended by Brigadier Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA, Registrar General, M. K. Sharma, other officers of the Registry of the High Court, members of Bar and other dignitaries.

Congratulating the team, the Chief Justice and Judges praised the players for their dedication, perseverance, discipline and teamwork,

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## J&K Govt launches Auto Scrutiny Portal, amends building Bye-Laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified amendments to the Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL) 2021 under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 and J&K Municipal Act 2000.

The move is aimed at promoting Ease of Doing Business, rationalizing development controls and digitizing approvals. The reforms are expected to strengthen the compliance across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities in

the Union Territory.

The amendments simplify land use regulations, merge multiple sub-categories into four broad primary uses and allow Affordable Group Housing in Industrial zones, promoting inclusive land utilisation. Setback norms have been rationalized and Commercial Floor Area Ratio (FAR) has been enhanced up to 400 (subject to norms), thereby increasing development potential. Further, the minimum Right of Way requirement for specified commercial and industrial activities has been

reduced from 12 meter to 6 meter to facilitate economic growth, particularly in smaller urban areas.

The government has also launched the Auto Scrutiny Based Building Permission and CLU portal with Auto-DCR technology, introducing a fully digital, rule-based and time-bound system for processing building permissions across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities in the Union Territory. Under the new framework, building plans submitted online are

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## ACB arrests Patwari for accepting Rs 10,000 bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested a Patwari posted at Halqa Batmaloo in Srinagar for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant for issuing revenue extracts.

According to officials, the accused has been identified as Saffdar Hussain Mir, Patwari Halqa Batmaloo.

The ACB received a written complaint alleging that Mir had demanded Rs 10,000 in exchange for issuing revenue documents in favour of a relative of

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## Forest fire triggers landmine blasts along LoC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: Some landmines exploded on Tuesday due to a forest fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, triggering panic among border residents, officials said.

No casualties were reported in the blasts and efforts are on to douse the flames, they said.

The fire broke out in forward area in Balakote sector, Dadote, around 9.55 am, causing some landmines to explode due to heat. The fire had not been put out till last reports, they said. Forward areas along the LoC

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## Cabinet approves extension of JJM till Dec 2028: Vaishnav Clears amendments to insolvency, companies laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission up to December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of Rs 8.7 lakh crore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

The project was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 to provide safe and adequate drinking water through tap connections to all households in rural India.

"The Cabinet approved the Ministry of Jal Shakti's pro-

posal to restructure and reorient the implementation



of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from infrastructure creation to service delivery, supported by drinking water

governance and institutional ecosystem for sustainable rural piped potable water supply," the minister said at a press conference.

For restructuring JJM, focusing on structural reforms, the Cabinet has approved an enhancement of the total outlay to Rs. 8.69 lakh crore, with a total central assistance of Rs. 3.59 lakh crore as against from Rs. 2.08 lakh crore approved in 2019-20.

A uniform national digital framework called "Sujalam Bharat" shall be instituted, under which

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## Kavinder Gupta sworn-in as HP Guv, says post belongs to no political party



Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia administering oath of office and secrecy to Kavinder Gupta at Shimla on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHIMLA: Former Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta was sworn in as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan here on Tuesday, following which he said the

position does not belong to any political party.

The Governor works for the overall development of the state and society, he added.

Gupta performed a traditional pooja

with his family members before proceeding to the oath-taking ceremony. He took the oath in Hindi.

Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia administered the oath of office and secrecy to him. Earlier, Chief Secretary Sanjay Gupta read out the warrant of appointment issued by the President of India after which the governor's signature on the charge certificate was obtained.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, several Cabinet ministers, senior civil and police officers and other prominent personalities were present on the occasion.

Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh also attended the ceremony.

For the first time at the Lok Bhavan, the ceremony began with the singing of Vande Mataram, followed by the national anthem.

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